

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. A method for analyzing the energy content of an electrical signal for detecting voice, said method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 (a) defining a first voltage threshold and a second voltage threshold, wherein the first threshold is greater than the second threshold;
 - (b) comparing the signal with the first voltage threshold and the second voltage threshold to produce a digital number representative of the signal;
 - (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) to produce a plurality of numbers;
 - 10 (d) converting the plurality of numbers into a first sum; and
 - (e) comparing the first sum to a third threshold, wherein a sum exceeding the third threshold is indicative of a voice signal.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said converting step includes the
 - 15 steps of:
 - weighting each number representative of a signal; and
 - summing the weighted numbers.
3. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein larger numbers receive greater
 - 20 weight than smaller numbers to produce a quasi-RMS calculation.
4. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including the steps of:
 - counting the number of numbers that exceed the first threshold;
 - comparing the number to a fourth threshold; and
 - 25 indicating a voice signal when the first sum exceeds the third threshold and the number exceeds the fourth threshold.
5. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including the steps of:
 - counting the number of numbers that exceed the first threshold;
 - 30 comparing the number to a fourth threshold; and
 - increasing the first threshold when the number is greater than the fourth threshold.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including the steps of:
counting the number of numbers that are less than the second threshold;
comparing the number to a fourth threshold; and
decreasing the second threshold when the number is less than the fourth
5 threshold.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6 and further including the step of:
not counting the number of numbers that are less than the second threshold
while the first sum exceeds the third threshold.

10 8. A method for analyzing the energy content of an electrical signal, said
method comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a first voltage threshold and a second voltage threshold, wherein
the first threshold is greater than the second threshold;

15 (b) comparing the signal with the first voltage threshold and the second voltage
threshold to produce a digital number representative of the signal;

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b) to produce a plurality of numbers;

(d) converting the plurality of numbers into a sum.

20 9. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said converting step includes the
steps of:

weighting each number representative of a signal; and

summing the weighted numbers.

25 10. The method as set forth in claim 9 wherein larger numbers receive
greater weight than smaller numbers to produce a quasi-RMS calculation.